

# THE



# WPD NEWSLETTER

August 2008

[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Police/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Police/)

*Up-coming  
event:*

**Community  
Unity Day**

**September  
13th, 2008**

*Atwater  
Neighborhood  
City Hall*

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## City, citizens team up for successful National Night Out

The challenge in itself was daunting: Improve on the City of Wichita's tenth-place national ranking by the National Association of Town Watch for its National Night Out program.

Competing against much larger cities such as Boston, Houston and Los Angeles, Wichita has very often been in the Top 25 and twice in tenth place, most recently in 2007. But, Chief Norman Williams felt the city could do better and challenged the three officers in the Crime Prevention Unit to try to place in the top five of cities with 300,000 or more population, the highest category of rankings. To do this, they would have to enhance an already solid program by engaging more citizens and businesses to come together to show their willingness to fight back against crime.

The effort was tremendous but the results were even more than expected.

National Night Out was expanded exponentially, from a one-day event on the first Tuesday of August to a multi-day, multi-event extravaganza that spanned several months and included numerous different groups. All told, more than 24,000 citizens participated in the 12 official pre-National Night Out events and on NNO Tuesday, there were a record 219 registered neighborhood block parties.



*Crime Prevention Unit Off. Jason Dautrich, Off. Joe Seitz, Lt. Darras Delamaide, Off. Michelle Tennyson, with Stacie Unruh, representative for Target stores, a NNO sponsor*

The pre-National Night Out events included a poster contest for young people in April and May, safety fairs in July as well as a senior's bingo game and a Texas Hold 'em tournament. ... continued on page 5

## Wounded officer the focus of Red Cross blood drive



It happened in an instant. A Wichita police officer responding to a suspicious character call is shot and wounded, nearly losing his life. Had it not been for fellow officers, Wichita Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians, Sedgwick County paramedics, the medical team at Via Christi Regional Medical Center St. Francis Campus, and nine pints of blood provided by the American Red Cross, Officer Derek Purcell very easily could have bled to death.

As it turned out, Purcell is making a speedy recovery, and as a way of calling the community's attention to the need for blood donations, worked with the American Red Cross in Wichita to create a special blood drive during the month of August to replenish the blood used to save his life. As a result of a collaborative effort between Officer Purcell and the Red Cross, the organization's local blood donation center reports it collected more than enough blood - 150 pints - to replace what he required.

"This is an excellent example of the community coming together to support both a wounded officer and local law enforcement by honoring him in a way that truly saves the lives of others," said Patti Tasker, a donor recruitment representative with the Red Cross.

Congratulations to the American Red Cross for a successful blood drive that brings honor to Officer Derek Purcell and the Wichita Police Department.



Officers Derek Purcell and Amie Fiegel



## Officers risk lives to save fire victim

For the second time in as many months Patrol South officers risked their lives to save a person in a burning home.

It all began on August 17<sup>th</sup> when Sergeants Carl Hill and David Armstrong were flagged down by a citizen who was reporting a house fire in the 1100 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street South. Shortly after they arrived on the scene, Officers Jose Navarro and Shannon Dunkel asked if anyone was still in the house. Upon learning from Hill and Armstrong a woman was still inside the burning home, Dunkel decided to attempt to rescue her. Sgt. Armstrong told him to pull the couch where the woman was sitting to the door, at which point Officer Navarro helped bring the woman outside. When paramedics arrived she was taken to a local hospital but later succumbed to injuries she received in the fire.

This is the latest example of WPD officers going above and beyond the call of duty to help citizens in distress. Congratulations to all involved.

## 2008 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

WPD members have an opportunity to be a part of the 2008 Susan G. Komen Race for The Cure, scheduled for Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Towne East Square. The race helps raise money for breast cancer research and education.



Last year, more than 10,000 people took part in the Race in Sedgwick County, and it's expected there will be even more this year. The Wichita Police Department has partnered with the Race for the last five years, taking the lead in coordinating the race route and site security. In addition, several department members participate in the event every year.

If you'd like to be a part of the Race for the Cure, you can visit the organization's website at <http://www.nationalracefortheCure.org/>.

## Stolen vehicle check leads to big meth bust

Anyone who's been in law enforcement any time at all knows a call from a citizen about an incident often can lead to bigger

things. For example, take the contact Officer William Stevens had with a 23-year-old man about his car being stolen.

In early August, Stevens was contacted by a citizen about his car being stolen from the 1600 block of S. Broadway. He quickly broadcast the vehicle's description, and that led Officer Jarod Kornelson's spotting the vehicle a short time later. After Kornelson initiated a traffic stop, he contacted the 21-year-old driver and discovered a large amount of methamphetamine in the vehicle. The driver was arrested for auto theft and possession of meth. A further records check by Officer Stevens found the man had multiple arrests for auto theft.

Great job by these two officers. This is yet another example why Wichita's Index Crime clearance rate is well above the national average for cities of comparable size.

## WPD using GeoCrime to fight blight, crime

Community policing officers soon will have a new weapon in their arsenal to fight crime. While the GeoCrime software system that lets officers track criminal hot spots in the community is not new, it is now being

used in a different way to identify and track blight.

Blight is problematic in that unless it is checked, neighborhoods will begin to deteriorate quickly. By using GeoCrime, officers can monitor blighted properties and the status of complaints or code violations and track the progress in correcting the problems.

Patrol East Community Police Officer Dan Oblinger and IT System Analyst Mike Kollmeyer were involved in the development of the new GeoCrime blight tracking system by pulling together information from a variety of sources. Those sources include not only the Wichita Police Department but the Office of Central Inspection and other City departments as well.

This new project is a strong and efficient tool all CP officers can use to address the roots of crime on their beats. Training is beginning for community policing officers in use of the GeoCrime blight application.







## *Air Section officers take part in Flight Festival*

If you missed the Wichita Flight Festival in August, you missed a great air show. But, two WPD officers who were on duty on Saturday were able to take in the show "up close and personal" as they witnessed some remarkable aerobatic flying.

During the show aerobatic pilot Patty Wagstaff, arguably one of the finest the profession has ever known, put on a remarkable demonstration as she piloted her Extra 300 S aircraft through some mind-numbing maneuvers.

One of those maneuvers was to fly upside down about 25 to 30 feet above the main runway at Jabara Airport and clip a streamer strung between two poles. Among those holding the poles were the Air Section's Dave Dolieslager and Brad Carver. If you look closely at the photo on the right you'll see them on the far side of the runway holding up one of the poles.



The photos were taken by Gordon Bassham in the office of the Chief.

## City Hall Security Officer foils burglary at Building Maintenance Center

An alert and well-trained City Hall security officer shut down a burglary at the Building Maintenance Center at 500 S. Topeka recently.

It all began when Security Officer Kristie Dick, who was on duty, noticed a motion alarm at the BMC and requested officers to check it out.

According to her supervisor, "Security Officer Dick was the sole officer on duty at City Hall for 2<sup>nd</sup> shift on 8-16-08. Among her many duties that date were physical protection of City Hall and its occupants, and monitoring of the City's extensive electronic security network consisting of 600 devices covering 20 locations."

At 2147 hours, while monitoring this system, Officer Dick observed that an alarm was being received from the Department of Public Works Building Maintenance Center at 500 S. Topeka. This facility has been the scene of several criminal incidents in the recent past. Officer Dick quickly and accurately assessed the situation as a burglary in progress. She immediately contacted Dispatch and through efficient use of system tools was able to effectively direct responding patrol officers to the site of the break-in and the suspect's location. Consequently, the patrol officers were able to observe the burglar inside the building. The burglar fled, with officers in pursuit, but broke his ankle while running away from the scene and was apprehended nearby. The suspect was found to have the keys to two City-owned trucks in his possession when taken into custody.

Her supervisor wrote: "Security Officer Dick's alertness, attention to duty, optimum use of the security system and ability to coordinate her efforts with other officers halted one crime in progress, averted the commission of additional crimes and prevented significant loss to the City. Her performance was exemplary and deserving of recognition."

Congratulations to Security Officer Dick for a job well done.

## City, citizens team up for successful National Night Out ... continued from page 1



Starting the non-stop run up to NNO in August, there was a public kick-off event at All-Star Sports, a summer concert in Old Town, a community health and wellness fair, a motorcycle rally and concert in Old Town, a safe-and-secure day at the Sedgwick County Zoo, and a free swim day at two City pools. On National Night Out, countless officers, other first responders and public officials blanketed the City to visit with thousands of citizens at their block parties.

"National Night Out 2008 was a big success," says Lt. Darras Delamaide, the commander of the Community Affairs Section. "Wichita has always been heavily involved in this public display to fight crime, but for 2008 National Night Out was taken to a whole new level. The attendance at all of the events clearly demonstrated the citizens of Wichita are committed to taking back the night from criminals."





## Patrol North officer's timing nets alleged suspect in shooting

Shortly before 2200 hours on August 6, officers were dispatched to the report of a shooting in the 1600 block of N. Erie. Thanks to good timing by Officer Mike Russell, the suspect in the case is now in custody.

As Russell was driving into the area he spotted a man in a light blue T-shirt and black shorts running north on Chautauqua just south of 17<sup>th</sup> Street. When Russell ordered the man to stop, he kept running, forcing Russell into a pursuit. The man was taken into custody.

A short time later, Officer Doug Cook put out a description of the suspect on the radio, giving the suspect's first name. As it turned out, the suspect Officer Russell had in custody matched the first name and description of the suspect in the shooting.

Not long after the suspect was taken into custody, Russell and Detective Ronald Hunt took him to Wesley Medical Center where he was identified by the victim.

Had it not been for heads-up policing it might have taken quite a bit longer to solve this case. Great job by all involved!

## Officer to receive Stand Together award

Officer Mike Lloyd has been involved in preventing underage drinking and tobacco use for years. In fact, Lloyd is pretty much considered the "go to guy" for information on the Juvenile Underage Drinking Group Enforcement and Education program (J.U.D.G.E.). As a result of his work over the years, Lloyd is being honored as the department's Stand Together 2007-2008 Member of the Year by the Stand Together Coalition.

The Stand Together Coalition promotes community involvement in restricting alcohol, tobacco, and other drug access to youth. It also promotes youth involvement in policy change, as well as promotes school and prevention based training, programs and policies. The Stand Together Coalition chose to recognize Officer Lloyd for his input and assistance to the organization over the past several years. Among those also being honored this year are representatives of Spirit Aerosystems, the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas, Youthville, Westar Energy, Hope Street Youth Development, the Sedgwick County Health Department, Abstinence Education, Inc. and Dr. Tim Scanlan, MD.

Congratulations to Officer Mike Lloyd for his dedication to this project and the honor he brings to the Department.

## Patrol South officer nabs homicide suspect

Shortly before 0200 hours on August 24<sup>th</sup> a 21-year-old man was gunned down in the parking lot of Lightning Joe's nightclub in the 600 block of S. Holland. Witnesses at the scene gave officers the description of a silver Ford Escape SUV leaving the scene with the suspect in the shooting inside.

Officer Robert Thatcher, who was monitoring both the south and west bureau channels following the incident, heard Officer Paul Duff put out the description of the vehicle as he was monitoring traffic at the intersection of Harry and McLean. At approximately 0210 hours Thatcher saw a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle southbound on McLean. Thatcher then began to follow the SUV until it stopped in the 1900 block of S. Water. At that point one of the passengers in the vehicle jumped out and ran, but was apprehended by Thatcher who was able to hold him and the two other suspects in the vehicle until backup arrived.

As a result of his heads-up policing, detectives were able to link the suspect in the case to the shooting. Since then, 26-year-old Jason Cruz has been charged with first degree murder and criminal possession of a firearm. Another person also was charged for aiding a felon.

This is one more example of how alert law enforcement officers can solve a major crime in short order. Great job by all officers and detectives involved.

## Kids have fun fishing



Members of the Wichita Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, USD 259 Security and Kansas Fish and Game took a moment recently to help 50 young people learn how to fish. The project, designed to give youngsters who might not experience the fun of fishing, took place at the K-DOT lake near 29<sup>th</sup> Street North and I-135.



The objective was to get the young people hooked on fishing rather than drugs. And, as you can no doubt see from the photos, it worked!

## Patrol North Bureau works to wipe out graffiti

During the month of July Patrol North worked hard to catch graffiti taggers and gang members leaving their mark on the city's north side. With some good old fashioned hard work, their efforts have paid off.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Patrol Officers Jared Henry and Lee Eisenbise were dispatched to a vandalism-in-progress call in the 1000 block of Cleveland at the site of the historic Dunbar Theater. A citizen watched as two juveniles, 12 and 13, were tagging the building with gang graffiti. The building is owned by the Power Community Development Company which was interested in prosecuting the individuals. The case is being presented to the juvenile District Attorney.

The area of 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway was also hit that same weekend with gang graffiti. The graffiti was quickly painted out, and both 41 and 42 beat coordinators began to formulate a quick response. With the assistance of SRO's and shift officers, a nightly special assignment was held. The owner of Rodriguez Fashion's was willing to let officers in the building to watch targeted hot spots. During the week, several people were checked.

However on Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>, while Officers Rod Miller and Grayson Hoofer were working the graffiti special assignment, they observed three Hispanic males tagging VLB over PFL and NSG graffiti in the alley in the area of the 2200 block of Wellington and Park Place streets. Two of the suspects were on bikes and got away. However, a 17-year-old gang member who fled on foot was not so lucky. He ditched his spray paint in the area, which was not located. He was a strong suspect in the case and was taken to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center after being arrested.

Good work to all involved in helping apprehend these taggers.

## *Records, Case Desk work to reclassify positions*

The Records Bureau had great news from the Human Resources Department. After months of filling out Position Reclassification Questionnaires listing every detail of their jobs and being interviewed by Human Resources, Central Records and Case Desk received their well deserved classification upgrades. Central Records went from a Clerk II to a Customer Service Clerk I, and Case Desk went from a Clerk III to a Customer Service Clerk II. These new positions are more in line with their current job duties. Congratulations to all those involved in helping out with this important project.

## Police and USD 259 host community gang meeting

Officers and supervisors from the Gang/Felony Assault Unit and the Patrol North Bureau teamed up with the Wichita Public Schools in August to provide the community with an update on gangs in Wichita. The presentation, conducted in both English and Spanish, was held at the beginning of the school year to provide parents and citizens with information about issues related to gangs and graffiti.

Citizens also were presented with information about how they can assist police and the school district to reduce the negative impact gangs have on the community. Among those from WPD who helped with the presentation were Sgt. Jose Salcido, who did yeoman's work giving the presentation in both English and Spanish.

Event organizers included Steve Meyer, North High School SRO, and Earnest Sharp and Steve Jerrell, Patrol North Beat Coordinators in the area of North High School. Also instrumental in the program was North High School Principal Sherman Padgett and Assistant Principal Lisa Orsak. More than 50 people attended the presentation.

### *Ten officers attend Crisis Intervention Team training*

One of the issues that has been confronting law enforcement for several years is that of incarceration of the mentally ill. In the last week of August the Wichita/Sedgwick County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Council conducted a 40-hour training session that was attended by ten WPD officers.

The training is designed to prepare officers who come into contact with persons with serious mental illnesses who are experiencing a crisis situation. During the training, they learned to recognize the signs and symptoms of these illnesses, and to respond effectively and appropriately to de-escalate and resolve the crisis.

Through instruction by psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed social workers, specialists and police officers, participants in the full week training received extensive background in brain diseases, psychotropic medications, dual diagnosis and substance abuse, legal issues, suicide prevention, elderly/children's/developmentally disabled issues, intervention strategies and community resources. Consumers and family members share their perspectives, and role playing springs from actual mental health related cases.



Lt. Dennis Wilson experiencing the Mindstorm Hallucination Simulator. It uses sights, sounds, and smells generated in a Virtual 3D setting to imitate a schizophrenic episode.

The ten who completed the training were Lt. Dennis Wilson, Sgt. Heather Bachman, and officers Anthony Arellano, Patrick Boucard, Tommy Fulcher, Matthew Lowe, Maurice Mitchell, Gregory Murray, Tricia Tiede and Justin Whyte.



## *Learning Camp looking for coaches*

The Atwater-Bulldogs Learning Camp is looking for Learning Coaches, according to Patrol North Lieutenant Doug Nolte.

"The program provides academic and character enrichment to about 200 football players in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grades," said Nolte. "The project works to help students at the first part of the new school year by strengthening their learning in math and reading skills."

Using football as a metaphor, the learning camp provides the students with homework assistance during the school year, helping them score a "touchdown", meaning good grades. The camp continues through October 10<sup>th</sup> which is "game time."

Learning coaches are needed Mondays through Thursdays between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, you can obtain an application form from the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall.

### **We want you to submit articles and photos for the WPD newsletter.**

Articles, ideas and tips should be emailed to either Gordon Bassham at [gbassham@wichita.gov](mailto:gbassham@wichita.gov) or Jan Messerschmidt at [jmesserschmidt@wichita.gov](mailto:jmesserschmidt@wichita.gov).

Please submit your photos in either a .JPG or .TIF format.



### The Monthly Newsletter of the Wichita Police Department



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## **Our Mission**

The Wichita Police Department's mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.

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## **We Value**

Ethical Behavior

Protecting the Community

Diversity

Problem Solving